

COUNTRYMAN-KLANG DOLLY

Countryman Klang

FILM PRODUCTIONS, INC.

TIMES BUILDING, MINNEAPOLIS 1, MINN.

PHONE 332-2539

April 4, 1963

Mr. T. Nelson
Film Department
Communication Research Institute
3908 Main Highway
Miami 33, Florida

Thank you, Mr. Nelson, for your inquiry on the "porta-dolly". We are enclosing a brochure which gives all specifications and prices. However, there has been a change in the list price of the basic "porta-dolly". Effective March 1st, the price was increased to \$1,297.00. Also enclosed is a reprint on an article appearing in the March issue of AMERICAN CINEMATOGRAPHER which will give additional information on the dolly.

Although from the pictures the "porta-dolly" may appear to be fragile, this is far from so. It will very solidly support a BNC Mitchell with a Worrall head. The boom arm has been tested to raise 800 pounds. It has been used satisfactorily with a large studio television camera. However, it is light and agile enough to speed up all shooting and save on camera set-up time. It will easily fit in, or can be operated, from a compact station wagon.

The model is currently available with control valves on the upper left hand side of the boom for use by the cameraman or assistant cameraman. It can also be purchased with the valves on the rear right hand of the boom for control by the boom operator. We have an electric model available with an electric motor to preload the accumulator selling for \$1,737.00. It will easily fit through the average size door for ease in moving from one place to another.

The "porta-dolly" is presently in use by MPO Productions, Van Praag Productions and W.C.D. Inc. - all of New York City; Calvin Productions, Kansas City; Centron Corporation, Lawrence, Kansas; Magna Film Productions, Boston; Goddard Space Center, Greenbelt, Maryland; Illinois Bell Telephone, Chicago and University of Minnesota's Hydraulic Laboratory, Minneapolis.

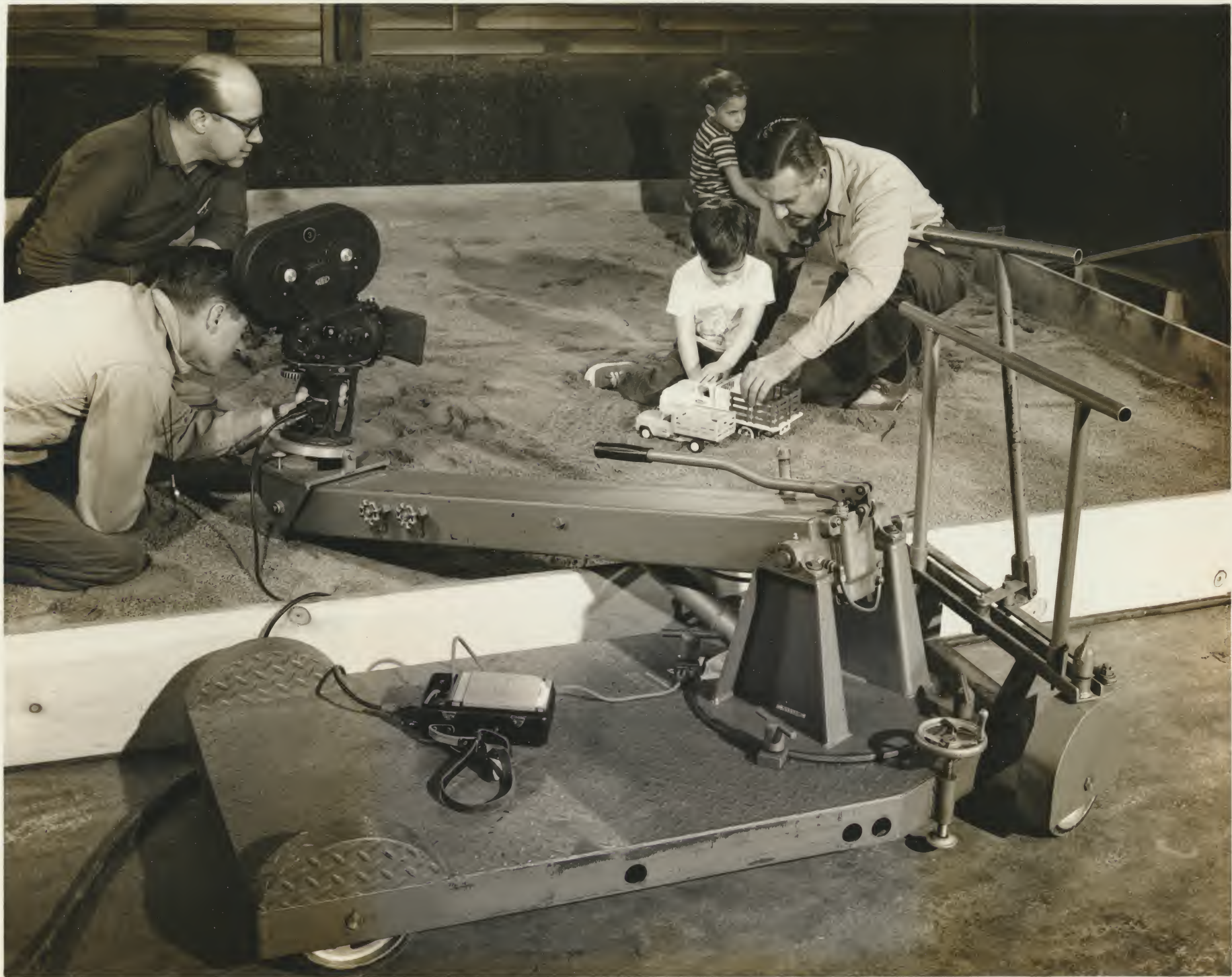
If we can supply you with any further information, please let us know.

Sincerely,



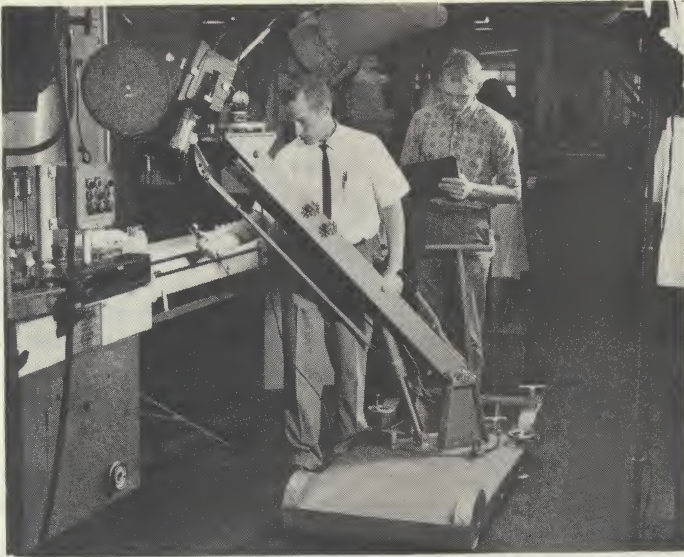
Thomas C. Countryman

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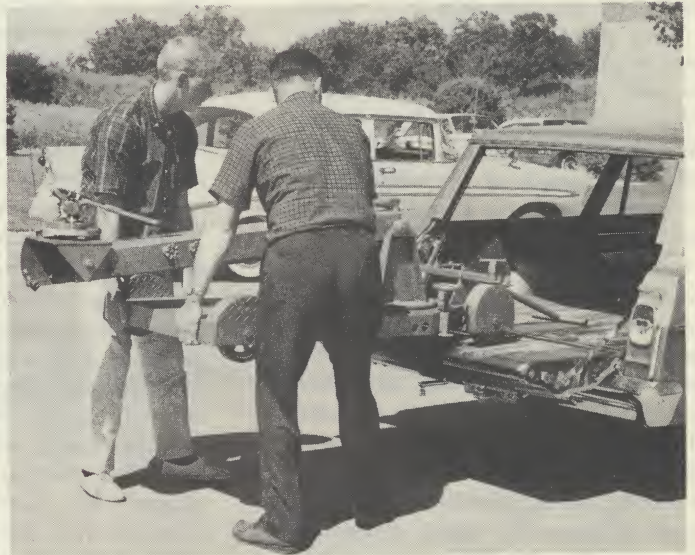
The "porta-dolly" allows for
unusual camera angles - almost
impossible to get under
normal circumstances

AMERICAN Cinematographer



PHOTOGRAPHING products on an assembly-line with the camera mounted high on boom of Porta-Dolly.

SO LIGHT AND compact, the Porta-Dolly can easily be loaded into station wagon by two men.



Their Problems Hinged On Lack of a Dolly

So this enterprising film producing company designed and built its own, now has a promising subsidiary business of building Porta-dollies for others.

By JOSEPH HENRY

COUNTRYMAN-KLANG is a name long identified with industrial and television film production. Because this company recently encountered problems in renting camera dollies suited to its particular needs, it set out to design and build its own. Today, Countryman-Klang is an equipment manufacturer as well as film producer—maker of the Porta-dolly, a portable, hydraulically-operated mobile camera unit suitable for both television and motion picture photography.*

Inception of the Porta-dolly occurred when a Countryman-Klang crew was preparing to shoot a TV commercial in which the product was to be shown sitting on a rock in the middle of a rushing mountain stream. For this, a miniature waterfall and mountain stream set, some 20 feet in length, had been constructed on the studio sound stage. The script called for an overhead dolly shot of the waterfall and the camera then dollying down the course of the stream until it was almost directly

over the product. At this point, the camera was to drop down for a straight-on closeup shot of it.

To achieve this, a plank was mounted crosswise, where the camera head normally goes, on a dolly rented for the purpose—with the camera on one end and a counterbalance on the other. Eventually, after a number of takes, this rig did the job. But it was an arduous and time-consuming procedure. Thought headman Tom Countryman, there must be a better way.

It was this photographic undertaking and this thought that led Countryman-Klang to develop the Porta-dolly, which now is being marketed.

In the beginning, there were several primary considerations: The dolly must have a 360-degree boom. It must be sturdy, completely portable, and small and light enough to be transported in a station wagon. It must be inexpensive. It must be able to do almost everything a large dolly could do.

Countryman turned to the principles of racing car construction, with emphasis on light weight ma-

*Countryman-Klang Film Productions, Inc., Times Bldg., Minneapolis 1, Minnesota.

terials properly stressed. (The only casting in the entire unit is the aluminum plate where the camera head fits. Otherwise, welding has been used throughout.)

In the interest of light weight, ease of transportation and low cost, the Porta-dolly has been kept very simple. A hand pump pre-loads an accumulator, so the dolly can be used even in the field. An optional electric motor for pre-loading the accumulator is now being developed. Control valves are within easy reach of the cameraman, a convenience where a small crew is used.

Individual screw-type, high pressure needle valves permit full control of boom movement up or down, from creep to rapid, with extreme smoothness. Speed of the boom movement may be changed at will during a take. With smooth and silent up or down motion at any speed, the dolly poses no problem of extraneous noise during sound filming. An easily removable cable guard is available for use in studio work.

With the Porta-dolly, Countryman-Klang found many of their problems solved, and they now were able to take advantage of many previously unavailable shots and camera angles. The 360 degree boom enables a cameraman to change relative camera position without removing the dolly from its tracks. The maximum high camera position of 60 inches and low of 12 inches afford infinite variety in camera angles. Because the entire hydraulic system is incorporated within the boom, the boom may be completely removed from the dolly bed and mounted elsewhere by means of four tie-down clamps.

The dolly will accommodate the heaviest of standard motion picture cameras—up to and including 180-pound television cameras. Because it has three hole positions in the stabilizer bar, it is possible to shoot straight down without the use of a wedge—covering an area 4 by 5 feet in extent for a top or exploded view. Two men can easily load the dolly into a station wagon, and it is narrow enough to move easily through the average household doorway.

Other specifications include: length of bed 53½ inches; low camera position, 12 inches; high position, 60 inches; boom rotation, 360 degrees; wheels are 8" in diameter with hard rubber tires; double-lock steering in any position; two floor jacks; heavy-duty hand pump; hydraulic accumulator stores pressure sufficient to raise and lower camera twice during one take.

The following are some examples of actual Porta-dolly use in interesting or unusual shooting situations by Countryman-Klang camera crews:

In-plant Shooting: The problem was to film a plant assembly line in action, employing both long shots and close-ups. The assembly lines were situated in pairs, with a narrow aisle between each pair and just barely enough room to erect a tripod. But with a tripod, the camera would still have been in a restricted position in relation to the subject. By running the Porta-dolly between two lines, with the boom elevated directly over the first line and shooting the second, it was possible to get all necessary shots with a single camera set-up.

Small Products Shooting: In shooting footage of the use and features of a reel-type lawnmower in a natural outdoor setting, it was necessary to go from a high, over-all camera angle to a low detail shot. This was done without moving the Porta-dolly position simply by swinging the boom and lowering it. This film also incorporated an example of the unusual camera techniques possible with the Porta-dolly. For one shot, the boom was swung to the side and dropped close to the ground. Then the mower approached the camera in a direct frontal shot. As the mower reached the camera, the camera was raised, allowing the mower to pass directly beneath for a most unusual angle shot.

Rough Country Shooting: During filming in the Kansas oil fields, the Porta-dolly was placed in the rear of a station wagon, with the dolly's front wheels hanging over the tailgate for added stability. In filming drilling operations at scattered locations, the camera was never removed from the

station wagon which became, quite literally, a mobile camera platform. When a camera position change was necessary, the station wagon was simply moved, with obvious savings in set-up time.

Mobile Shots: To make moving camera shots from a car usually requires tying down the tripod. When a Porta-dolly was used, Countryman-Klang cameramen found it sufficiently steady to permit shooting from the moving wagon with the front wheels of the dolly just hanging over the tailgate. By swinging the boom to one side, it was also possible to shoot straight ahead.

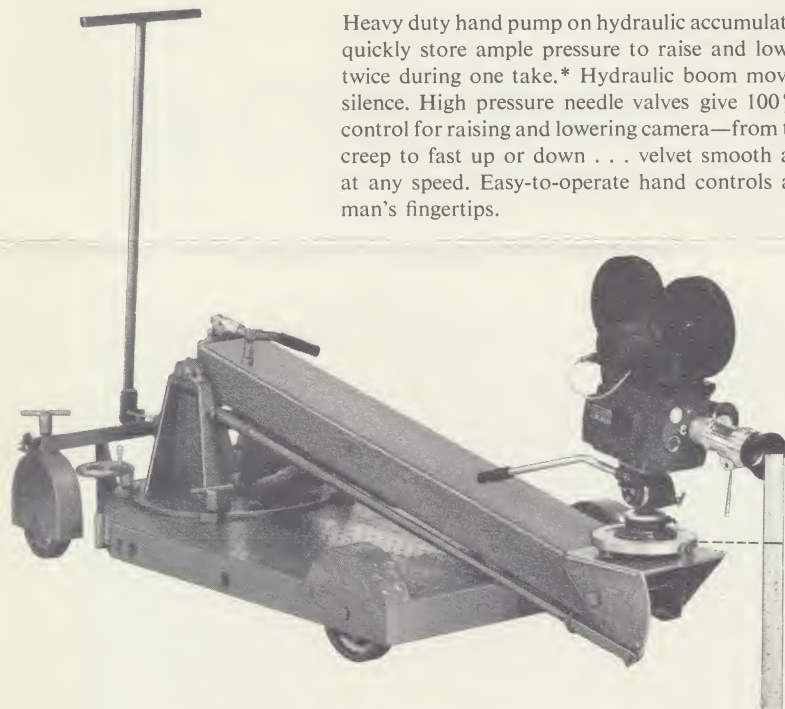
Although the Porta-dolly was developed primarily for the use of small-to medium-sized film operations, it has been found that larger firms find it useful as a second dolly, especially where a highly portable dolly is desired. For television use, the TV camera head is removed from its pedestal and mounted on the Porta-dolly. Greater variety of camera movement and lower camera angles are claimed for this unit than are otherwise possible with the regulation TV camera assembly.

Through use, Countryman-Klang discovered a couple of applications they hadn't even thought of when they developed their dolly. First, because of its light weight (320 pounds) and portability, it makes an excellent rental unit. Second, it saves a lot of time and muscle on locations in transporting lights, cable, camera and sound equipment. With its ease of movement and ample, unobstructed platform space, the Porta-dolly is simply loaded with equipment and used as a hand truck until time for its normal use. ■

porta-dolly

the only hydraulic dolly that's really portable . . . the most versatile television and film camera dolly ever produced.

Heavy duty hand pump on hydraulic accumulator lets you quickly store ample pressure to raise and lower camera twice during one take.* Hydraulic boom moves in total silence. High pressure needle valves give 100% positive control for raising and lowering camera—from the slowest creep to fast up or down . . . velvet smooth and steady at any speed. Easy-to-operate hand controls at camera-man's fingertips.

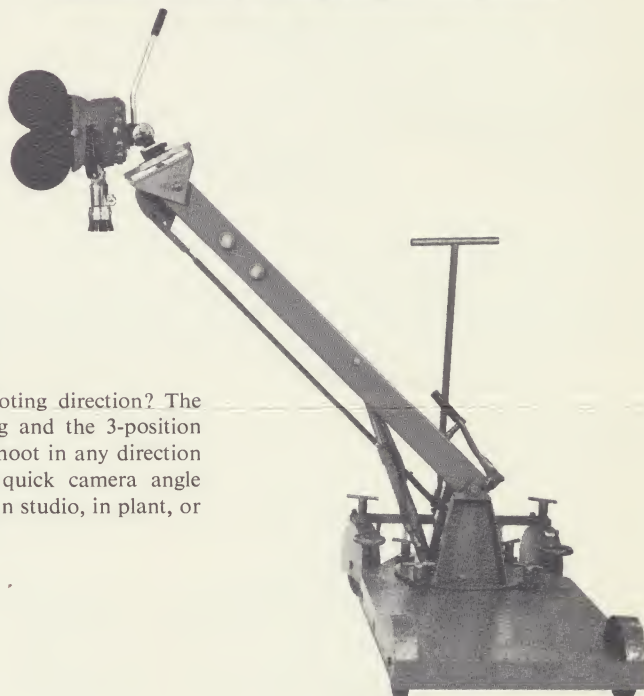
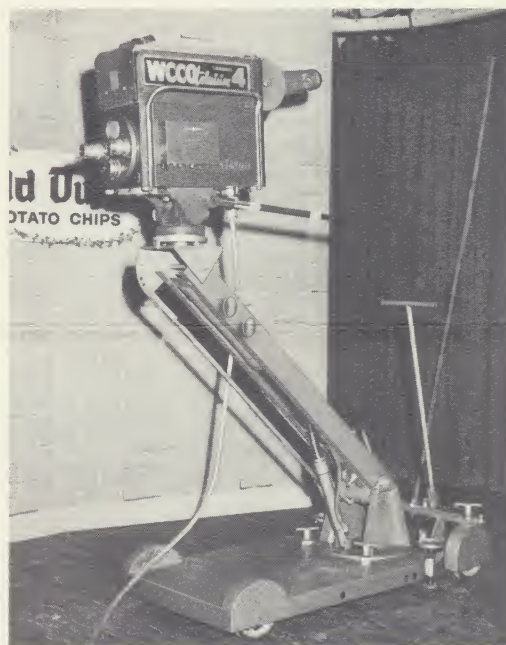


And look at this

The lowest camera plate position ever: only 12" off the floor or ground. Shoot in any direction from any height . . . up to the sixty-inch high position of camera plate.

What about boom swing and shooting direction? The combination of 360° boom turning and the 3-position stabilizer bar adjustment lets you shoot in any direction including straight down. Permits quick camera angle changes—cuts down shooting time in studio, in plant, or out-of-doors even on rough terrain.

Double-lock steering permits precision smooth dolly shots in straight line or curve with dolly always arriving to exact pre-selected position. You eliminate retakes. 8" hard rubber wheels are 2" wide; adjustable ball bearings with grease fittings for permanent smooth and easy movement. Two floor jacks in dolly bed allow rock-solid holding of dolly for fixed shots. Cast aluminum camera mounting plate for 16, 35, and TV heads. Has leveling adjustments for both directions.



COUNTRYMAN-KLANG, INC.
TIMES BUILDING
Minneapolis 1, Minnesota

**Electric motor to preload accumulator available. Price on request.*

porta-dolly

outperforms other dollies costing thousands . . . it's only . . .

1297⁰⁰
\$1,187⁰⁰ F.O.B.
MINNEAPOLIS
CRATING CHARGE \$35.00

Now for the first time a revolutionary new hydraulic dolly that does everything the big, heavy dollies can do—does it in the studio or on location. The amazing new porta-dolly is designed, developed, proved and produced by film cameramen, working with TV producers and camera crews.



The porta-dolly weighs only 320 pounds and can be easily loaded into a compact station wagon.

SPECIFICATIONS

TOTAL WEIGHT	320 pounds
LENGTH OF BED	53½"
WIDTH	27½"
HEIGHT OF CAMERA PLATE	
Low position	12"
High position	60"
BOOM	360° turning
WHEELS:	
Hard rubber, 8" diameter, 2" wide—adjustable ball bearings with grease fittings.	
CAMERA HEAD:	
Cast aluminum camera mounting plate for 35mm and TV heads—adjustment, both directions. Three stabilizing bar adjustment positions, eliminates wedge.	
ACCESSORIES:	
Brass adaptor rings for all 16mm camera heads . . .	\$13.50
(Specify make of head)	
Counter balance outrigger plate for side camera operation . . .	\$15.00
Detachable wheel cable guards for TV studios . . .	\$22.50
FINISH:	
All steel construction with bronzed metallic finish.	

porta-dolly

the new
**HYDRAULIC
CAMERA
DOLLY**

that's REALLY

PORTABLE



FOR TV OR FILM CAMERAS

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE "PORTA-DOLLY" MODEL #II

1. CAUTION - The oil filler plug placed on the top - rear of the dolly boom for shipment must be replaced with the breather plug attached BEFORE OPERATION.
2. Close both valves and put in approximately 20 pumps with the hand pump. Slowly open the UP valve to determine that the hydraulic system operates properly.
3. Close the valve completely before opening the down valve.
4. Never attempt to operate the hand pump with the rear of the dolly elevated. The oil will be in the forward part of the reservoir and only air will enter into the pump. Should air ever get into the pump or hydraulic system (characterized by a spitting sound when the boom is rapidly lowered or a spongy to useless feeling in the hand pump), it can be removed in the following method: Place the boom on a solid support in a level position. Open BOTH VALVES and operate the hand pump slowly for approximately one minute. Then close both valves and try normal operation.
5. Use discretion in pumping. Do not attempt to put more than 75 strokes into the entire hydraulic system -- although it is tested for 3,000 pounds. Sixty strokes will be more than enough to take a BNC Mitchell with a Worral head from bottom to top twice.
6. Should the "porta-dolly" ever lose hydraulic fluid, refill with any light weight hydraulic oil. Total capacity - 7 pints.
7. The boom arm may be swung in a 360° circle by loosening the four clamps on the swivel plate. Extreme caution should be exercised when swinging the boom with a heavy 35mm or television camera on it. Make certain the counter balance plate is inserted into the bed of the dolly and weighted with an appropriate ballast to properly counter balance the side load.
8. Make certain the four clamps are tightened before dollying or transporting the dolly.
9. The entire hydraulic system is built within the boom arm. It is, therefore, possible to remove the boom arm from the dolly bed by merely removing the four clamping lugs. This plate can then be "C" clamped to any solid support such as a vehicle frame, etc. and the hydraulic system will work perfectly.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE "PORTA-DOLLY" MODEL #II

Page Two

10. The head of the boom has three holes for the stabilizing bar. This permits lower angle of camera depression without the use of a wedge.
11. Head leveling can be performed by rotating the stabilizing bar and the two leveling screws on the head plate.
12. An additional ten inches of height may be gained with the optional extension plates. These units may be stacked to gain more height - 20", 30", etc.
13. The aluminum camera plate is designed to fit most 35mm heads. Available is a brass ring, plus two washers to adapt to the 16mm Pro Jr., Miller Fluid and O'Connor heads.
14. Wheels have adjustable ball bearings with grease settings. Should any play develop, merely tighten the inside nut. Use only heavy fiber wheel bearing grease for silent operation.
15. Wheels may be cleaned by tipping the dolly on its side.
16. Push bar and towing handle are removable for easy transporting.

MODEL #IIE -- ELECTRIC MOTOR

1. The electric model has an additional electric pump to preload the accumulator. It can be plugged into _____ only. Motor available for 12, 110, 115, 220 and 40, 50, 60 cycles. AC or DC.
2. This unit is equipped with an automatic cut off switch. Hold the spring pressured switch down until the motor shuts off. This will be equivalent pressure to 70 strokes with the hand pump. The hand pump may be operated at any time with this model.
3. EXTREME CAUTION must be exercised to keep foreign particles out of the oil reservoir with the electric motor.